

Granby Economic Development & Growth Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Meeting Held via Go-To-Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Members: Jay Joyce, Chairman
Bill Porter
Jim Trompke
Lillian Camus (Alternate)
Jason Smigiel – for DLTA Project Work Group portion

Absent: Bryan Hauschild
Gary Glenn

Visitor: Ken Comia – Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Call to Order: Jay Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval October 27, 2020 Minutes

Jay Joyce asked if there were any changes to the October 27, 2020 minutes. Hearing none.

Motion made by Bill Porter and seconded by Lillian Camus to approve the October 27, 2020 minutes as amended. Motion carried 4 in favor (Jay Joyce, Bill Porter, Jim Trompke and Lillian Camus), 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Open Action Items

Businessman's Recommendations

- 1) Land acquisition
 1. Sand Plains State Park Land off Green Meadow Lane.
 - i) The Committee discussed pros and cons of the Town purchasing the land.
 - ii) Jay Joyce forwarded the documentation on the area and forward it to the Committee.
 - iii) Jay Joyce will request the Select Board give the information to the Land Use Committee as soon as possible so they can start their review.
 2. Cooley Park – Park Oversight Committee said we are welcome to the land because no one wants to use the park as it is so bug infested. The Committee decided not to move forward with Cooley Park.
 3. Route 202 acreage abutting Town-owned land – 4 West State Street to access Town-owned land-locked parcel.
 - i) Property owner considering donating the land to the Town. In return the property owner wants a playground for kids created with a memorial plaque dedicating the playground to her husband.
 - ii) Jim Trompke suggested the Land Review Committee take a look at the property.
 - iii) Jay will recommend at the next Select Board meeting the Land Use Committee review the request.
 - iv) Chris Martin was in touch with the landowner.

- v) On Monday, November 16, Jay requested the Select Board give the information to the Land Use Committee as soon as possible so they can start their review. No response from the Select Board. Jay will make a motion at the next Select Board meeting.
- 2) Short Term Tax Incentives for new businesses
 - 1. Bill Porter reported the Assessors have not fully explored the tax incentives. The Assessors have to set up a program and agree as to how the program will be administered and send it to the Select Board.

Rt. 202 Upgrades – Except Village Center

- 1) Water Pipeline at 5 Corners = waiting for Mass DOT FY2023 scheduled work
 - a. Waiting until 2023 to finalize plans in conjunction with Mass DOT’s schedule.
- 2) Water Pipeline from the South Hadley\Granby Town line to 64 West State Street
 - a. South Hadley Tasks to be completed:
 - i. Requiring a minimum of 40% of the businesses to commit to using the pipeline before they will give us a letter of approval.
 - ii. Responses from the businesses are due no later than October 31, 2020.
 - iii. If we don’t receive 40% of the businesses committing, the project is dead.
 - iv. If South Hadley issues a letter of approval, the Select board will contact the politicians to ask the status of the “in-kind” money (\$560,000). The money was revoked by Mass DOT.
 - v. The tasks have been completed. We had more about 70-75% of the businesses committed.
 - vi. Jennifer Silva will take over this project for the Select Board. The Select Board is waiting for a letter from South Hadley.

Grants/Loans

- 1) Mass Works Grant Application
 - a. The Town did not apply for June 2020 grant.
 - b. Next one due June 2021 (unless COVID-19 changes date)
- 2) EPA Water Structure Funding Loan – Waiting on response from Steve Nally
- 3) Small Town Road Assistance Program Grant Application – (STRAP)
 - a. The Town did not apply in FY2020 for a grant.
 - b. Not sure if the Town will apply for a FY2021 grant.
- 4) Economic Development Grant Application
 - a. Grant approved and will be for mixed zones with PVPC working with the Planning Board on Zoning changes.
 - b. Ken Comia led the Work Group in a discussion around barriers to mixed-use development in the Town.
 - i) Ken will need two more meetings before the end of December, with one of them being a joint meeting with the Planning Board.
 - ii) Ken to check on Mass DOT’s schedule for the improvements on Route 202.
 - iii) Ken suggested adding hiring a Grant Writer and Planner/Conservation person to ensure the Town receives the proper grants to help with projects.
 - iv) The Committee looked at Zoning maps for potential developable areas near the Five Corners area. Jim Trompke suggested asking the Select Board to send this to the Land Review Committee. Jay Joyce will make a motion at the next Select Board meeting.
 - v) Ken asked the Committee to send him any comments/suggestions for the report.
 - vi) Ken will send the final copy to both the Economic Development and Growth Committee and the Planning Board for a joint meeting on Tuesday, December 22, 2020.

Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program

- 1) Granby Municipal Utility (Electric) Department
 - a. Initial Grant Application not approved. We are waiting for Grant Funding to become available.
 - b. PVPC is researching requirements and permitting.
 - c. Jay suggested the Committee recommend Granby create a Municipal Utility (Electric) Department.

New Business

- 1) Small Business Administration COVID-19 Grants
 - a. Applications open October 22, 2020 at noon and close November 12, 2020 at noon.
 - i) Valley Community Development has sources available to assist at no charge with the applications
 - b. Two Grants Available
 - i) Businesses with 5 or less employees
(1) \$10,000 limit
 - ii) Businesses with 50 or less employees
(1) \$75,000 limit
 - c. Out of a potential 316 small businesses in Town, only 4 applied for the grants. As a result, the remaining share of the money allotted to Granby was distributed among the other six towns in our grant region.
 - i) Jay will check to see if businesses can still apply for the grant.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via Go-To-Meeting.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Jim Trompke and seconded by Bill Porter to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried 4 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

I, Lillian Camus, certify that these minutes are true and accurate minutes of the November 24, 2020 Granby Economic Development and Growth Committee meeting.